

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing knowledge to impart value, the method comprising the steps of:

a. developing an initial domain model from knowledge in an unstructured domain;

5 b. determining whether there is value in further developing the initial domain model to include a knowledge map and, if so, developing and implementing the knowledge map;

10 c. determining whether there is value in further developing the knowledge to include a knowledge clearinghouse and, if so, developing and implementing the knowledge clearinghouse.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether there is value in further developing the knowledge to include a knowledge network and, if so, developing and implementing the knowledge network.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein developing the initial domain model comprises the steps of defining organizational and content scopes relevant to the unstructured domain, and identifying entities and processes subject to benefit from structuring of the knowledge.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the content scope comprises explicit and implicit content.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein developing the initial domain model further comprises the step of conducting a cost/benefit analysis of the initial domain model based on the organizational and content scopes and identified benefitted entities and processes.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether there is value in further developing the initial domain model to include the knowledge map further includes determining costs and specifications of the knowledge map, determining what value is created by developing the knowledge map and evaluating logistics and risks of maintaining the knowledge map.

7. The method of Claim 3, wherein developing and implementing the knowledge map further comprises the steps of plotting an organizational structure of the content scope from the initial domain model, developing the content scope into the knowledge map pursuant to the organizational scope, providing access to the knowledge map and evaluating and refining the knowledge map.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether there is value in further developing the knowledge to include the knowledge clearinghouse further includes determining costs and specifications of the knowledge clearinghouse, determining what value is created by developing the knowledge clearinghouse and evaluating logistics and risks of maintaining the knowledge clearinghouse.

9. The method of Claim 3, wherein developing and implementing the knowledge clearinghouse further comprises the steps of collecting information about the explicit content within the knowledge map, organizing the information in a manner relevant

to the unstructured domain, providing access to the knowledge clearinghouse and evaluating and refining the knowledge clearinghouse.

10. The method of Claim 2, wherein determining whether there is value in further developing the knowledge to include the knowledge network further includes determining costs and specifications of the knowledge network, determining what value is created by developing the knowledge network and evaluating logistics and risks of maintaining the knowledge network.

11. The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of developing and implementing the knowledge network comprises the step of developing the implicit content of the knowledge map.

12. A method of managing knowledge to impart value, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. developing an initial domain model from knowledge in an unstructured domain;
- b. developing and implementing a knowledge map; and
- c. developing and implementing a knowledge clearinghouse.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising the steps of developing and implementing a knowledge network.

14. A method of managing knowledge to impart value, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. developing an initial domain model by identifying knowledge in the form of implicit and explicit knowledge;

b. developing the implicit and explicit knowledge into a knowledge map and implementing same; and

c. developing a knowledge clearinghouse that provides access to the explicit knowledge coincident with the knowledge map.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of developing a knowledge network that provides a mechanism to mediate sharing of the implicit knowledge.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the steps of evaluating the method between each developing step to determine whether proceeding to a subsequent developing step imparts value and is, therefore, justified.

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein the step of developing the initial domain model further comprises the step of developing organizational, content and process scopes of the knowledge.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the content scope is developed from the explicit and implicit knowledge.